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Northampton Mercury

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2014

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LIGHTS OUT TRIBUTE TO FALLEN HEROES

CANDLES LIT TO MARK ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST WORLD WAR

More than 100 people attended a candlelight service at All Saints Church in Northampton town centre on Monday night, to mark 100 years since the start of the First World War.

Reverend David McConkey said the Northampton community had been "remarkably responsive" to the commemoration event, which included a series of readings and a two-minutes silence to remember those who died in the war.

Rev McConkey said: "More than 100 people came to the service and the neighbourhood was remarkably responsive. We had a number of reflections and meditations on war and on our own responsibility to make peace and remember those from Northampton who died.

"The last post was played at 11pm. It was certainly a fitting commemoration."

Candlelight vigils were held at a number of churches across Northampton on Monday night as part of the nationwide Lights Out event. Many people turned their house lights out too.

The inspiration for Lights Out came from a famous remark made on the eve of the outbreak of war by the then Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, who said: "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our life-time."

Britain declared war on Germany at 11pm on August 4, 1914, after the deadline passed to respect Belgium's neutrality.

'We had a number of reflections and meditations'

Memorial planned for young Emmerson

A MEMORIAL event in memory of Northampton teenager, Emmerson Thompson, is due to be held in Abington Park tomorrow (Friday).

Emmerson, aged 15, went missing from his home in Stimpson Avenue at 2pm last Friday after telling his father he was going to a chip shop and then staying at a friend's house.

The alarm was raised on Saturday when it was discovered he had not stayed with his friend.

A body, believed to be Emmerson's, was found at Weston Mill, near Riverside Retail Park, shortly after 2pm on Monday.

His family, volunteers and school friends from Weston Favell Academy had begun searching for Emmerson that morning, after Northamptonshire Police assigned 30 officers to the case with assistance from the Northants Search and Rescue team.

Friends are now planning a memorial event at 2pm tomorrow, near the bandstand in Abington Park to remember Emmerson.

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Staff leaving schools after academy change

An academy sponsor that has taken over three primary schools in Northampton in the past six months, has been criticised by a union leader for trying to change things too quickly and creating high levels of staff turnover.

Gordon White, county secretary for the National Union of Teachers

The EMLC Academy Trust has taken over Hardingstone, Castle and Stimpson Avenue Primary Schools, in Northampton, in the past six months and all three are subsequently said to have had a high staff turnover.

At Stimpson Avenue eight teachers are believed to have left at the end of the summer term. At Castle, six teachers moved on and at Hardingstone, the headteacher left in January, and a number of other staff have also gone.

Gordon White, county secretary for the NUT, said: "Since EMLC Trust took over Stimpson Avenue, I have had calls almost weekly from teachers having problems.

"It seems as if they are trying to change things too quickly and want to get rid of the staff they consider to be weak. There has been a significant turnover at the schools."

A spokesman for the EMLC confirmed a number of staff had left Stimpson Avenue Academy but said the school would have a "full complement of staff" in September.

The spokesman said: "Since April 2014, EMLC Academy Trust has been clear in setting expectations with staff so that all teachers will be part of this journey of delivering at least 'Good' outcomes for all pupils. We regret to say a number of staff have left the academy, of which some are in response to the expectations we have set.

"EMLC Academy Trust is committed to staff development, with all staff being empowered to providing the very best education to all pupils.

"We have a programme of support planned to begin in September to deliver this objective."

The trust has also announced that new principal, Darren Smith, who previously led a school rated 'good' by Ofsted in the county, will be taking over the running of Stimpson Avenue Primary School.

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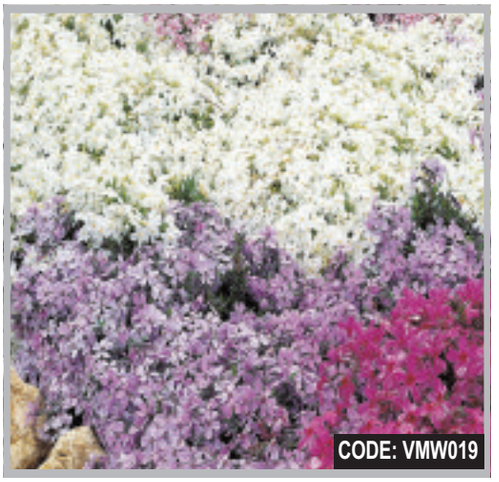

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Court claim Jim O' Rourke says steps at the back of his property have always been there. But a year after he repaired the 4ft high set, he received a letter saying he had built on council land. Now the borough is threatening to take him to court unless he removes them.

Taken to court for repairing my steps

A disabled former housing officer threatened with court action for repairing a set of steps leading to his back garden has labelled the legal moves 'ludicrous'.

Jim O' Rourke moved into his house at Pindar Rise, Thorplands Brook, 19 years ago with his wife, Sharon.

He had bought the property from Northampton Borough Council and assumed a 4ft high set of steps leading to his raised back garden gate were included in the sale.

As he is now almost entirely wheelchair bound due to a degenerated spine, in July last year he had the top step lowered, and the rest of the brick structure covered in concrete to make them safer.

But a year on he received a letter on behalf of the borough council stating that he had built an "unauthorised structure" on council land.

It went on to say: "We are satisfied you do not have any right or permission to put any structure on the land abutting you."

The letter asks Mr O' Rourke to remove the steps, which cost him £380 to have repaired, by August 8 or face possible court proceedings. But the 61-year-old former borough council employee, who attained a law degree in 2003, says the claims are farcical.

"Those steps have always been there." He said. "You can clearly see the old brick underneath. We have only repaired them with a bit of concrete on the top."

But Mr O' Rourke said he will not be removing the offending items as they act as an emergency exit to his property.

"If they're taken out there will just be a back gate 4ft high in the air that we can't use."

Mr O'Rourke, who was given the Queen's award for voluntary services for his efforts fund-raising for the Thorplands Club 81 football team, says he has already enquired about taking the steps out. But builders told him they are effectively 'holding up' the back fence and if removed, would cause the structure to fall. He is now resolved to fight the council in court.

"How could they have sold me the house and not the steps leading to it?" he said.

Council says it is not sure who built the steps

■ Jim O'Rourke said had he known the steps belonged to the council, he would have contacted it to get the works completed in the first place. It is believed the offending steps were initially reported as an 'unauthorised structure'.

■ After being contacted by the Chronicle & Echo this week the borough council has agreed to revisit Mr O'Rourke's property.

■ A borough spokesperson said: "It is not clear who in the past was responsible for building the steps at the rear of Mr O'Rourke's property, but we have contacted Mr O'Rourke and will be visiting him this week to help resolve the problem." Even though there is a dispute as to who built the steps, Mr O Rourke says he is determined to keep them. He said: "It's my back gate and I am entitled to use it, surely?"

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Father calls for murder

EXCLUSIVE

The father of a University of Northampton student accused of murdering a teenager abroad, has called for the proceedings to be stopped as he claims there is no case against his son.

One year on from the fatal stabbing of Tyrrell Matthews-Burton on the holiday island of Crete, 20-year-old Myles Litchmore Dunbar stands as the only man accused, even though three bloody knives were recovered in relation to the crime.

The tragic incident happened during a 30-man brawl outside a nightclub in the tourist village of Malia.

But while 19 Brits were arrested that night, only the Northampton-based economics student was charged with murder.

On July 24, he passed his first year in a Greek prison, with no sign of a trial date being set in the near future.

This week his father, 50-year-old Chris Dunbar, issued a heartfelt plea to the country's authorities to drop the case.

He said: "There has been a series of mistakes and errors, they have mishandled the whole thing.

MURDER SUSPECT: Myles Litchmore-Dunbar stands accused of killing a teenager while on holiday in Crete. But his father, right, says there are serious flaws in the police investigation.

"It's a year on and they have got nothing new in terms of evidence. We have even flown over independent witnesses, but the authorities have paid them no regard.

"The police closed the investigation after 24 hours, but there was 19 people arrested. "There were three knives and they were all bloody. How can Myles have been carrying all three?"

The prosecution case against Mr Litchmore-Dunbar, from Lewisham, has it that a bloodied knife was found in a trainer

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case to be dropped

in his hotel room.
Other rumours have alleged he knew the deceased, that he was seen near the body in the aftermath of the incident and that he had blood on his shirt.
But the economics student, who once campaigned to keep Lewisham Hospital open, said the knife belonged to someone else and claimed he was actually trying to break up the brawl as someone he knew was involved.
Mr Dunbar said if the case against his son was not dropped then the trial should at least be held on home soil.
"The system out there is flawed," he said. "Our lawyers told us the courts very rarely challenge what the police say.
"I have no confidence in the Greek judicial system.
"There's concerns around CCTV, concerns around witness statements and forensic evidence."
The family have questioned why the clothes of Tyrell Mathews Burton were returned to his family shortly after the stabbing and not retained by the Greek authorities to be used as vital evidence.
Hilary Brown, of Virgo Consultancy Services, part of Myles' British legal representation, said: "The evidence is poor to say the least. The careless handling of vital forensic evidence and interviewing of witnesses is inexcusable.
"We are not aiming to do the work of the Crete Police for them, but we will show the authorities the serious flaws in their investigation and see that the charges against Myles are dropped."
Mr Dunbar, who works in local government procurements, said the effect on the family, which includes Myles' four siblings, had been devastating.
They have spent more than £40,000 on legal fees and travelling to and from Greece so far.
More than 5,000 people have signed a petition to see the British authorities intervene in the investigation at: you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/british-police-protect-your-citizens-abroad

'Jail has hit my son hard but he's staying upbeat'

A year into his pre-trial incarceration in a detention centre just outside of Athens, Myles Litchmore-Dunbar is trying to remain optimistic, his father says, even taking up learning the Greek language.
"It was a major shock to the system for him," said father Chris Dunbar. "The first few days and weeks he was feeling really dispirited.
"He has managed to cope with that now; he's optimistic that the truth will come out. The evidence is all there."
When Mr Dunbar last visited his son in May, he said the 20-year-old had taken five exams in learning Greek 'to keep busy' and was continuing to read economics.
At one time he was sharing a cell with five other inmates.
"He's learned enough to speak to the guards now," he said. "One of the difficulties he did have was that he was the only English person there."

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Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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School staff retire after nearly 60 years' service

Two members of staff who have worked at a Northampton primary school for a combined total of almost 60 years have both retired.

Kathy Startin and Anita Bartram, have worked so long at Bridgewater Primary School they said they now saw the grandchildren of some of the pupils they remember at the school.

Mrs Startin, who works as the office manager, and Mrs Bartram, both worked at Abington Vale Middle School before Bridgewater opened in 2003, when Northampton changed from a three-tier to two-tier system.

Mrs Startin has clocked up 32 years of service and Mrs Bartram reached 27 years.

Mrs Startin said: "I feel quite emotional. It is the end of an era.

"We are really good friends and we have worked so well together it is nice we are retiring together. I will be spending more time with the grandchildren and catching up with friends.

"We have seen through three generations of children. It is really lovely seeing them all progress through their careers."

Mrs Bartram said: "The school has changed so much since we started.

"It is now more like running a business than a school.

"Lots of the children at Bridgewater do exceptionally well," she added.

Kathy Startin and Anita Bartram have retired from Bridgewater Primary

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SUMMER OF SPORT

County's GPs could be 'referring too easily'

By Nick Spoors
Cheif reporter
nick.spoors@northantsnews.co.uk

NHS staff who treat patients with muscle and joint disorders have said Northamptonshire GPs are often wrongly referring patients to them.

The comments from hospital workers appeared in a questionnaire by the watchdog, Healthwatch Northamptonshire, taken by 35 staff.

It said staff recommended that family doctors "should be given clearer referral criteria guidelines to avoid inappropriate referrals, which take up time".

County patient groups have been regular critics of some Northamptonshire GPs over concerns they send patients to specialists too easily, thereby delaying other treatments. Healthwatch said other staff concerns included waiting times, as well as a need for more administrative staff, more receptionists and access to psychology support.

However, some staff highlighted good quality of care, good team working with a diverse range of clinical skills and access to extended scope practitioners.

GPs are being asked to consider other options than hospital for some muscle complaints

A spokesman for NHS Nene said: "The report made reference to how referrals might be improved through clearer guidelines.

"We have tools available to assist GPs to better understand which is the most appropriate service for the patient. This allows the patient to access the right care, in the right place and be treated by the right person first time and every time.

"We have good communication and relationship with our acute trusts and will work with them to identify areas for improvement in relation to referrals."

Seven-month wait for pain clinic check

Musculoskeletal patients reported "very high levels of satisfaction" with the quality of their care and treatment, Healthwatch Northamptonshire said.

However, there was concern about the length of waiting times for both first appointments and follow-up appointments. In particular, one patient waited seven months to be seen at the pain clinic.

The report said: "The average wait for the pain clinic is just under three months and the impact of waiting times on peoples' lives is significant."

In other findings, 17 per cent of people surveyed were on sick leave due to their condition. A further 14 per cent stated they were in pain, but had no choice but to continue to work. Nearly half of all the patients surveyed who were using one or more department were frustrated at perceived poor communication between departments, particularly between counties.

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Charity celebrates 25 years

A charity which has supported more than 271,000 young people and saved lives in Northamptonshire is celebrating its 25th anniversary this summer.

The Lowdown, based in Kingswell Street in Northampton town centre, offers guidance to young people in need and last year helped one person a week contemplating suicide to find hope.

This summer, the charity is organising activities and recruiting new volunteers to mark its own new lease of life after funding cuts last year meant it faced closure.

Marketing and fundraising manager, Dawn Wright, said a reverse in the cuts decision by the NHS and a fund-raising total of £100,000 had allowed it to continue offering its support network to young people in the area.

Mrs Wright said: "We have people come to us who want to end their lives and every year this number increases.

"We have helped young people overcome obstacles and saved their lives, which shows that local people need us.

"We will always see someone in a crisis and show them that they are not alone."

The Lowdown introduced its silver jubilee by raising £500 at Fitzy's Smoothies stand in Northampton's Market Square, organised and provided by local fruit-seller, Eamonn 'Fitzy' Fitzpatrick.

Further birthday activities throughout the summer will include Lift Tower abseils, skydiving challenges, the launch of a 'make a difference' campaign, car boot sales and eBay sales.

The charity is also launching a new website, recruiting new volunteers and is reaching out to past users and volunteers to get back in touch to share their stories so they can be logged as part of the charity's legacy.

This year, the Lowdown aims to raise a further £100,000 to keep helping the young population of Northampton.

To become a volunteer or to support the birthday events, visit www.thelowdown.info

RAISING FUNDS The Lowdown in Kingswell Street, Northampton, raised £500 at Fitzy's Smoothies

Sales exec comes to the rescue

A SALESexecutive at Taylor Wimpey Homes had to call on her first aid skills, less than a week after completing a course at work.

Holly Jackson, of Northampton, was driving home from work at the housebuilder's Wheatfields development in Burton Latimer, when she was caught up in a serious road accident on the A45.

A car on the other side of the dual carriageway was involved in a collision with a lorry and flipped over the central reservation. Holly said: "I ran over and the woman had taken her seatbelt off and was trying to get out, but I told her to stay still.

"She had quite a bad cut to her head, so I held a bandage to the wound while someone else called an ambulance.

"I had done the St John Ambulance first aid course for work less than a week before, and I never thought I'd have to put my skills to use so quickly."

Northampton Mercury

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Blackpool Illuminations

Chester and Buxton

Departing Friday 24 October 2014

For 66 days every autumn, after sundown, Blackpool's seafront blazes with light as over one million lamps form six miles of garlands and hundreds of different tableaux and lighting features. Join us to see 'the greatest lightshow on Earth', with visits to historic Chester and the Peak District's stunning Georgian spa town, Buxton, too.

Look what's included.....

- **2 nights stay at the 4 star Thistle Haydock hotel with 3-course dinner on Friday and full English breakfast on Saturday and Sunday**
- Full day in Blackpool, with coach tour of the Illuminations in the evening
- Visits to Chester and Buxton
- Return coach travel

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Departing Friday 19 September 2014

100 years ago the world of Owen, Sassoon, Graves and McCrae was a blasted lunar landscape that consumed a generation. Now there are peaceful flower meadows and orchards, but nothing is forgotten. We pay our respects at Arras, the Somme, Beaumont Hamel, Vimy Ridge, Thiepval and Passchendaele, and hear the Last Post at the Menin Gate.

Look what's included.....

- 3 nights stay at the 3 star Mercure Lille Airport hotel with hot buffet breakfast
- Visits to the Newfoundland Memorial at Beaumont-Hamel, the Thiepval Memorial, Lochnagar Crater at La Boisselle, Pozières, Essex Farm, Langemark German and Tyne Cot Cemeteries, the Menin Gate, Vimy Ridge, Ypres and Arras
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Reader Travel

Funds for tots group

A group of mums in two Northamptonshire villages have secured a major cash boost for new equipment and facilities for toddlers and their parents.

Overstone and Sywell Mums and Tots have been successful in a bid to the National Lottery's Awards for All fund for money to help replenish their stocks of toys and help transform Overstone Village Hall into a more toddler-friendly zone once a week.

Work has now started to plan how to use the funding to secure a host of new facilities, ranging from new external play equipment, baby mats and a children's kitchen through to storage, ride-on trikes and radiator covers to help protect their fingers.

Tracey Redwood, who spearheaded the Lottery bid, said: "We think our weekly playgroup is such a great session, not only for the little people to meet new friends in our villages but also for mums, dads and grandparents to meet others. We already have such a strong community and it was felt that some investment was needed to help bring some of the resources available to our weekly visitors up to scratch.

A group in Overstone and Sywell has received National Lottery funding

"We have had unbelievable support from Overstone Parish Council who have been letting us use the village hall and supported us with this bid and we are so delighted it has been a success.

"We truly hope this new investment will not only secure the future of the group by giving it valuable funds, but also improve it even further and hopefully attract new members."

Overstone and Sywell Mums and Tots meets from 9.30am on Fridays at Overstone Village Hall.

For a £1 entrance fee, parents get tea and coffee while there is always a vast array of healthy treats on offer for the youngsters.

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WOBURN Abbey and Gardens
WOBURN Safari Park

Woburn Abbey and Gardens

World War I at Woburn Abbey
9th to 11th August 2014
The exhibition 'Valiant Hearts: World War I - Woburn and its Stories' will be brought to life this weekend, with a nurse on duty to tell you about her experiences at Woburn Military Hospital during the war.

11th April to 28th September 2014
'Valiant Hearts' tells the stories of those connected to Woburn Abbey, including the Duke and Duchess of Bedford, and those from the surrounding villages, during WWI.

This exhibition is included with entry to Woburn Abbey and Gardens.

The Woburn Rally *10th August 2014*
The Woburn Rally is a festival of historic vehicles. Vehicles of all shapes and sizes will gather in the glorious setting of the Woburn Abbey Deer Park. Book tickets online at **woburnabbey.co.uk/events**

Woburn Safari Park

Elephant Appreciation Weekend
9th and 10th August 2014
Join the herd of beautiful Asian elephants at Woburn Safari Park for two days of fun and fundraising, all in aid of the International Elephant Foundation. Included in your standard ticket price on 9-10th August.

VIP Access All Areas BOOK ONLINE
Saturday 16th August 2014
This exciting behind the scenes tour gives you the rare opportunity to explore the animal houses and get amazingly close to lions, rhino, antelope and elephants, often meeting them face to face. Tickets: Adult £129 / Child (aged 12yrs+) £79

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www.woburnsafari.co.uk/events

For full event diary details and prices please visit woburnabbey.co.uk and woburnsafari.co.uk

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Critical care nurse retires after 32 years

A nurse who has treated hundreds of patients in the Intensive Care Unit at Northampton General Hospital in the past 30 years has retired.

Mary Burt, a critical care nurse consultant, joined the hospital in 1982 and was promoted to sister four years later. During Mrs Burt's time at the hospital, she has witnessed the number of critical care unit beds increase from five to 16, including eight in a new High Dependency Unit, which opened in 2005.

Mrs Burt, who retired on Friday, said: "I feel mixed emotions. I'm sad to leave all the people I've worked with for many years.

"There has been a huge amount of change since I started, such as the technology and the number of beds, but the people haven't changed, they are just as lovely."

Despite the sometimes tragic nature of working in the Intensive Care Unit, Mrs Burt said she had never wanted to work anywhere else and had found the work very rewarding. She said: "I recently had a card from a patient who was celebrating his 25th anniversary since being very poorly in the unit. In the cases of the ones that pass away, you have the comfort of knowing you have done everything you can for them."

Lesley Smith, sister in ITU, said Mary would be greatly missed and had supported the career development of many of its staff members.

PICTURE BY NGH

Mary Burt (centre) and some of her colleagues in the Intensive Care Unit

Northamptonshire Mercury

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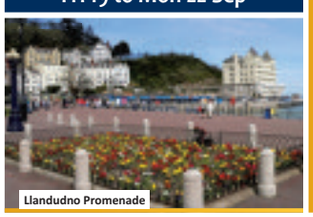

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Teenager is new voice of fostering

A Northampton teenager is to become the public voice for a new fostering campaign across the county.

Stephen, aged 18, has lived with his foster family for six years and will be speaking on Heart Radio and Connect FM this summer, on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council, to urge residents to consider taking a child or young person into their home.

The council takes care of more than 800 children and its new Room For Me? campaign aims to highlight the benefits of the scheme and explain why being able to provide a spare bedroom is such an important factor

Stephen said: "There was a lot of instability in my life before I came into care. Being a foster placement meant that things were more stable, there were no sudden unwelcome surprises and there were no big dramatics. When I moved in, my bedroom was my safe place. I filled it with things that have happy associations and memories and it became my quiet place where I could chill out or listen to my music. It helped me to feel safe and welcome."

He also attributes his academic success, along with his own determination, to his fostering placement. In the last few years his school attendance has soared from 29 per cent to 95 per cent and he achieved 10 GCSEs before going on to study engineering. He is now looking to move into his own place and helps to train prospective foster carers by helping them to understand the scheme from a child's perspective.

He said: "I didn't need a parent, I already had parents; I needed a role model. My foster carers had a lot of patience, they helped me to make sure my voice was heard and they looked out for me."

The council has also announced a full programme of summer events to promote fostering across the county.

For further details, contact the fostering team on 0300 126 1009. Further events in Northampton are taking place on Saturday, August 16 and Sunday, August 17 – The Umbrella Fair at The Racecourse, Kettering Road, Northampton, NN1 4LG

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NEW LAUNCH Northamptonshire County Council has launched a new campaign to promote fostering

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ROAD TEST – LAND ROVER DISCOVERY XXV SPECIAL EDITION

This edition is something special

At the upper end of the car market it seems more is always better, so Land Rover has happily obliged with a model that lays on more with a leather and lacquer theme.

Called the Discovery XXV Special Edition, it celebrates a quarter century of a name that has come to mean an engaging mix of luxury and serious off-road ability.

The Discovery has always been more than capable of wading knee deep through a South American swamp; now you can do it while admiring the Windsor leather door armrests or glancing at your reflection in the Narvik Black cappings of the door mirrors.

Land Rover has added a lot to an already top-grade Discovery to produce this anniversary machine, priced as a rather special birthday treat at nearly £65,000. Standard kit includes big 20-inch alloy wheels, soft leather seats and black lacquer wood.

More practical touches include xenon headlamps, satellite navigation, surround camera system that even gives you a side view at junctions, and a rear seat entertainment system with wireless headphones.

Given a smooth stretch of Tarmac this big, heavy car shrugs off the years and proceeds with enough puff to make you smile. It feels properly quick from the delightfully raised vantage point.

There's something ruggedly honest about the car.

FACTFILE

PRICE: £64,790

DRIVETRAIN: 3.0 litre 248hp diesel engine, automatic gearbox

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TRUST IS A MUST Professional, honest, single Rushden mum, 43, own home, 5'2'', dark hair, enjoys the simple things in life, simply seeking a trustworthy, helpful man, to share a loving, happy future together. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 148573**

LOVE LIFE Fun, loving, professional Daventry female, 44, new to the area, enjoys nights out, country pubs, fitness and fine foods, searching for a fun-loving guy, for friendship and laughter. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 173488 or send a text to 80361**

LOVE AND ROMANCE Young, attractive, loving woman, 49, loves swimming and staying active, would like to find a sensitive, genuine man, for evening meals, companionship and romance. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 150475 or send a text to 80361**

INTO THE SUNSET Flexible, fun-loving Rugby lady, 50, would like to meet an honest, laid back guy, for good times, companionship and hopefully more in the future. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 154857 or send a text to 80361**

Loving, positive and kind, 51 year old lady, would like to meet a special, fun-loving male, who enjoys days and walks out and enjoys life generally. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 176399 or send a text to 80361**

SOULMATES YET TO MEET? Easygoing, bubbly Northampton female, 52, 5'4'', brunette, curvaceous figure, likes soul music, cosy nights in and trips to the seaside, would like to meet a happy, N/S gent, to settle down with. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 154822 or send a text to 80361**

FANCY A DRINK TOGETHER? Bubbly, curvaceous Northampton lady, 52, 5'4'', N/S, enjoys cosy evenings in, most music and nature reserves, seeking a flexible, loving Northampton man, with similar interests for companionship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 149383**

IN THE MOOD FOR ROMANCE Easygoing, caring woman, 54, 5'5'', slim build, enjoys eating out, the theatre and travelling, would like to meet a humorous, educated gentleman, of a similar age, to share interests and more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 157445 or send a text to 80361**

FILLED WITH LAUGHTER Outgoing, fun-loving Kettering female, 55, widow, beautician, loves walks, running puppy classes, entertaining, cooking, music & writing music lyrics for bands. Would like to meet a male. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 164550 or send a text to 80361**

GLAD TO MEET YOU Attractive, N/S, out-going lady, 55, sociable, GSOH, enjoys going to the theatre, animals, sports and country-side, looking for a similar, tall, attractive male for companionship and maybe more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 151613 or send a text to 80361**

IF YOU'RE THE ONE Active, attractive, professional female, 55, 5'1'', auburn-hair, hazel-eyes, seeking a friendly and honest, good-looking guy, for friendship, company and hopefully more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 134415 or send a text to 80361**

NO TIME TO WASTE Hard-working, N/S, divorced lady, 57, 5'7'', likes travel, gardening, films, walking, seeking a caring, genuine man to share happy times with. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 151470 or send a text to 80361**

THE BETTER HALF Warm-hearted, sensitive and reliable Northampton female, 59, 5'9'', curvy, searching for a sunny, trustworthy, tall man, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 162457 or send a text to 80361**

LIFE IS TOO SHORT Happy, friendly Corby lady, 63, non smoker, tall and slim, enjoys walks, cinema, theatre, holidays and home life, would like to meet a similar gentleman, for friendship and future happiness. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 174072 or send a text to 80361**

COMPANION NEEDED Bubbly, honest, 65 year old female, retired, enjoy walks in the country, football and occasional nights out. Would like to meet a male of a similar age for companionship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 176013 or send a text to 80361**

EXPLORE NEW HORIZONS WITH ME Slim 68 year old Daventry lady, widow, non-smoker, loves walking, nature, painting and National Trust. Would like to meet an active, creative man for company and exploring life. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 174565 or send a text to 80361**

LET'S DO DINNER Retired, caring Northampton lady, 68, enjoys dining out, aqua aerobics and soul music, would like to meet a kind, honest, reliable male, to share quality time together and see what happens. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 149483**

GOOD NATURED Friendly, caring, young looking Rugby lady, 77, 5'10'', enjoys walks, theatre, board games, days out, theatre, holidays, would like to meet a similar gent, to share happy times with. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 166417 or send a text to 80361**

I'M READY FOR LOVE Friendly, reliable Rugby man, 31, 6'3'', with GSOH, interested in art, photography and drumming, would like to meet a woman, with similar interests, for a long term relationship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 149827 or send a text to 80361**

FUN-LOVING, EASYGOING Funny, caring, 39 year old Northampton male, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build. Likes nights out, cinema, dinner, outdoor stuff, also like cosy nights in. WLTM a down-to-earth female, who's up for a laugh. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 163377 or send a text to 80361**

KEEP AN OPEN MIND Kind, trustworthy Kettering man, 41, 5'10'', brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes music, eating out and pubs, seeks a woman for friendship, company and good times. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 156434 or send a text to 80361**

INTO THE SAME THINGS? Compassionate, 47 year old Northampton male, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, animal lover, like keeping fit, going on holiday, nights in or out and meals out. Seeks a like-minded female. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 176630 or send a text to 80361**

LOOK NO FURTHER Active, caring, genuine, 50 year old Rugby male, 6'2'', well-built, brown hair, blue eyes. Seeking a female in Rugby for a long-term relationship, must like pubs, keeping fit and sports. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 167108 or send a text to 80361**

LOOKING FOR LASTING ROMANCE Easygoing, romantic Kettering male, 50, 6ft, medium build, enjoys cosy evenings in and cooking, looking for a similar female, to care for and love each other. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 149438 or send a text to 80361**

LIFE-LOVING LIKE ME? Lonely, honest, caring male, 54, looking to find someone I can share my life with and look after. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 151117 or send a text to 80361**

LET'S GET OUT THERE Professional, romantic, honest, loving Market Harborough male, 58, N/S, fun-loving, enjoy weekends away, holidays in the sun, music, dancing and gardening. Seeks a lady to share good times. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 171744 or send a text to 80361**

TACTILE & AFFECTIONATE Funny, talkative and adventurous Rugby man, 58, would like to find a kind-hearted, decent woman, for fun times and happiness. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 155197**

JUST LOOKING FOR ROMANCE Romantic, professional, handsome male, 60, N/S, own house, car and business, honest, tactile and lovely open personality, seeks a female, for long term relationship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 158935 or send a text to 80361**

LOT OF LOVE FOR THE RIGHT PERSON Attractive, slim, solvent male, 60, with lots of love to give, simply seeking a caring, loving lady, for friendship and hopefully lasting love and romance. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 148942 or send a text to 80361**

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED Romantic, professional, trustworthy Market Harborough male, 60, own home and car, no ties, GSOH, N/S, would like to meet an open and honest woman, for a lasting and loving relationship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 156664**

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GET TOGETHER Divorced, naturist male, 62, enjoys weekends away, swimming, evenings in, seeks female to share lifestyle with. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 152936 or send a text to 80361**

CHEERS TO US! Well-travelled, divorced Kettering male, 63, GSOH, 6'1'', medium build, enjoys the countryside, gardening and long drives, would like to meet a tall, slim, attractive lady, for future happiness. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 153644 or send a text to 80361**

LEADING TO LOVE...??? Youthful, fit, kind-hearted Wellingborough male, 65, would like to meet a younger female companion, for friendship and possibly more in the future. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 156898 or send a text to 80361**

LOOKING FOR MY SOUL MATE Friendly, kind, considerate and thoughtful, 65 year old Rugby male, average build, 5'11'', easy-going, would like to meet an honest woman to share life with. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 171209 or send a text to 80361**

ARE YOU MY MATCH? Athletic Northampton man, 67, N/S, 6'1'', own home, full head of hair, enjoys dancing, socialising, laughs, looking for a slim, N/S lady who enjoys life to the fullest. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 152940**

SIMILAR INTERESTS? Sincere, 69 year old Rushden male, 6ft, non-smoker, smart dresser, active, enjoy outdoors life, sports, music and going out. Seeks a nice, attractive lady, who is smartly dressed to share interests. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 175708 or send a text to 80361**

THE WHOLE PACKAGE Warm-hearted and sincere Rugby female, 60, own home and car, searching for a loving woman, for friendship and perhaps more if possible. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 176474 or send a text to 80361**

FUN AND LAUGHS Friendly, honest, straight-forward, 60 year old Northampton male, 5'8'', would like to meet a local like-minded male, for fun friendship and maybe more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 166971 or send a text to 80361**

START IT OVER Friendly, sincere, 63 year old Northampton male, slim build, would like to meet a local bisexual or gay male, for friendship, fun and happy times. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 172984**

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For more details, please contact Melanie Bristow on 01908 560041, or melanie.bristow@rehabwithoutwalls.co.uk

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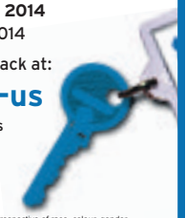

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SPORT

Nicholls earns new contract

Striker Alex to be rewarded for fighting back to fitness

FOOTBALL

Striker Alex Nicholls is to be rewarded for fighting back to fitness by being offered a new contract by Cobblers boss Chris Wilder.

Nicholls hasn't played a competitive game since October, 2012, when he suffered a double leg fracture in the process of scoring a goal in a 2-0 win over Port Vale.

The former Walsall man, whose previous contract ran out at the end of July, has faced a series of operations and medical procedures, and well as a lengthy rehabilitation.

But all the player's hard work is set to pay dividends as, after he returned to playing action in pre-season, he is to be offered a short-term contract at Sixfields.

Wilder is keen to reward Nicholls for his efforts in regaining fitness, but the Town manager also feels the player still has some way to go to be ready for the week in, week out rigours of Sky Bet League Two football.

That being the case, Nicholls is likely to be offered a deal until January, and then may go out on loan, with the plan being he proves his fitness further and then can be offered a more long-term deat at Sixfields.

"We have been delighted with Alex's progress and we are going to offer him something," confirmed Wilder.

"I am in dicussions with the chairman, and we are going to offer a deal, but we have to decide on the length and the numbers.

"We would like to offer him something with the view that he does well and then we can offer longer.

"Initially we are possibly looking until Christmas, Alex understands that, and it gives him enough time to go out and play games.

"Whether he plays in our first team, which would be great, or the reserves or we might even look to get him out on loan to get a bulk of matches.

"The pleasing thing for Alex is that we want him to do well, and we consider him part of the plans.

"He has done everything that has been asked of him and now we need to see him go again, and as soon as that happens we will be in a position to talk again."

FIGHTING BACK Cobblers plan to offer fit-again Alex Nicholls a new contract

Reihana and Smith return to Gardens

RUGBY

BRUCE REIHANA and Tom Smith will be among the men taking the field for Saints stalwart Paul Diggin's testimonial match later this month.

A date has now been set for the game, which will take place at Franklin's Gardens on Sunday, August 31, with a 3pm kick-off.

Diggin's testimonial year has been used to raise funds for local charity Niamh's Next Step and a golf day, which was attended by former England cricketer Darren Gough as well as a number of the Saints first team, took place on Saturday.

And it is hoped Northampton fans will now turn out in force to watch Reihana, Smith and many more in action at the Gardens.

"I'm really looking forward to it," said Diggin, who scored 62 tries in 148 appearances for Saints after coming through the club's Academy.

"We've managed to get the likes of Tom Smith, Bruce Reihana, Johnny Howard, Darren Fox, Jon Phillips, Ben Jones, Mark Hopley, Ian Vass and loads more to play.

"It's been tough to organise because the Gardens pitch got torn up at the end of last season so we had to delay it.

"We also had to wait for the fixtures to come out for the first team so we could get a date set when no one had anything on, but it's been sorted now."

Tickets for the event can only be bought on the day and will be priced at £10 for adults and £1 for children.

Meanwhile, Saints put in a punchy performance against rivals Saracens and Wasps last Friday to secure their place at Premiership Rugby Sevens finals day.

The youthful squad, which included the senior experience of Glenn Dickson and Teimana Harrison, will head to The Stoop next Friday after overcoming a slow start to progress.

Harlequins humbled the home side 42-7 in the night's opening game, but Saints stormed back, finishing things off with a win against Saracens, that also included some fisticuffs.

That showed how much it meant to the passionate players in green, black and gold, who lapped up the sound generated by a crowd of more than 11,000 at Franklin's Gardens.

And they will now be desperate to go all the way when they head to London for the showpiece occasion.

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